

Application Serial No. 09/607,375

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim ~~[[1]]~~3 further comprising the step of authorizing access to a predetermined level of the network service if the workstation security credentials satisfy a portion of the workstation security policy.

3. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented process for authenticating a workstation requesting a network service from a network server via a computer network, comprising the steps:

completing a vulnerability assessment of the workstation to identify security vulnerabilities that would compromise the secure operation of the workstation on the computer network;

generating workstation security credentials based on the vulnerability assessment, the workstation security credentials comprising one of integrity information describing whether the workstation has been compromised, and security posture information describing the workstation's potential for compromise, wherein the step of generating the workstation security credentials comprises completing the vulnerability assessment of the workstation by a local workstation assessment service maintained on the workstation, the local workstation assessment service operative to generate the workstation security credentials;

comparing the workstation security credentials to a workstation security policy to determine whether the workstation should be granted access to the network service; and

authorizing access to the network service by the workstation if the workstation security credentials satisfy the workstation security policy, otherwise denying access to the network service by the workstation.

4. (Original) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 3, wherein the workstation security policy is maintained on the workstation, the process further comprising the step of providing the workstation security credentials from the local workstation assessment service to the workstation security policy.

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5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented process for authenticating a workstation requesting a network service from a network server via a computer network, comprising the steps:

completing a vulnerability assessment of the workstation to identify security vulnerabilities that would compromise the secure operation of the workstation on the computer network;

generating workstation security credentials based on the vulnerability assessment, the workstation security credentials comprising one of integrity information describing whether the workstation has been compromised, and security posture information describing the workstation's potential for compromise, wherein the step of generating the workstation security credentials comprises completing the vulnerability assessment of the workstation by a network workstation assessment service maintained on the network server, the network workstation assessment service operative to generate the workstation security credentials, wherein the workstation security policy is maintained on the workstation,

providing the workstation security credentials from the network workstation assessment service to the workstation security policy on the workstation via the computer network;

comparing the workstation security credentials to a workstation security policy to determine whether the workstation should be granted access to the network service; and

authorizing access to the network service by the workstation if the workstation security credentials satisfy the workstation security policy, otherwise denying access to the network service by the workstation.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim [[8]]<sup>3</sup> further comprising the step of communicating a service decision from the network server to the workstation via the computer network, the service decision defining whether the workstation is allowed to access the network service or a degraded form of the network service.

10. (Cancelled)

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11. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim ~~[[10]]~~3, wherein the workstation security policy is maintained on the network server, the process further comprising the step of comparing at the network server the workstation security credentials to the workstation security policy to determine whether the workstation should be granted access to the network service or a degraded form of the network service.

12-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~network security system computer-implemented process~~ recited by Claim ~~[[13]]~~3 ~~further comprising a workstation security policy at the network server, wherein~~ the workstation security policy is operative to define security requirements for secure operation of the workstation on the computer network.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~network security system computer-implemented process~~ recited by Claim 14, wherein the network service is further operative for comparing the workstation security credentials to the workstation security policy to determine whether the workstation should be granted access to ~~[[the]]~~a software service, the network service operative to authorize access to the software service by the workstation if the workstation security credentials satisfy the workstation security policy.

16-25 (Cancelled)

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26. (New) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 3, further comprising:

- running a network client on the workstation; and
- retrieving the workstation credentials from the local workstation assessment service with the network client.

27. (New) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 3, further comprising:

- running a network client on the workstation;
- retrieving the workstation credentials from the local workstation assessment service with the network client; and
- obtaining user credentials with the network client.

28. (New) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 3, further comprising:

- running a network client on the workstation; and
- obtaining user credentials with the network client from a user credential database.

29. (New) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 3, further comprising:

- retrieving the workstation credentials from the local workstation assessment service with a network client residing on the workstation; and
- obtaining user credentials with the network client from a user credential database.

30. (New) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 3, further comprising:

- retrieving the workstation credentials from the local workstation assessment service with a network client; and
- transmitting the workstation credentials over the computer network with the network client.

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31. (New) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 3, further comprising:

obtaining user credentials with the network client; and  
transmitting the user credentials over the computer network with the network client.

32. (New) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 3, further comprising:

obtaining user credentials with a network client;  
retrieving the workstation credentials from the local workstation assessment service with the network client;  
transmitting the user and workstation credentials over the computer network with the network client.

33. (New) The computer-implemented process recited by Claim 6 further comprising the step of authorizing access to a predetermined level of the network service if the workstation security credentials satisfy a portion of the workstation security policy.

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